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Ideas & Trends

Westmoreland's View

Meanwhile, six floors down in the Federal Courthouse, General Westmoreland was the 14th witness in his month-old trial against CBS. He disputed statements in a 1982 documentary that his command had engaged in a "conspiracy" to "suppress and alter" information on enemy troop strength in South Vietnam in the months before the Tet offensive of 1968. The 70-year-old retired general said CBS emphasized "self-defense units" in its program, forces that he said he concluded "were of no military consequence" in the fall of 1967 and thus were no longer given a number in the official military listing.

A Earlier, CBS lawyers read a memo written in 1968 by Samuel A. Adams, then a C.I.A. analyst who was a consultant for the CBS documentary. In the memo, Mr. Adams accused General Westmoreland's

command of "half-truths, distortions and sometimes outright falsehoods" in those reports on the enemy.

Richard Levine
and Katherine Roberts
